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Historical Commission Minutes 03-04-2003

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday,
4 March 2003
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:30 PM

Call to Order: Robert Botterio, presiding; with Commissioners Jane Becker (with Annika Benn), Pam Meister, Eric Stange, JoAnn Robinson, and Michael Ruderman.

Minutes of 4 February 2003: approved.

Communications, from Mr. Botterio:

Beth Cohen, chair of the Historic Districts Commission, replied to Mr. Botterio's inquiry about our receiving the HDC's minutes. They are looking for a new secretary.

A request for demolition, forwarded by Rick Vallarelli, Building Inspector, regarding 7-9 Fordham Street—a non-inventoried property.

May 1 is Student Government Day; Mr. Stange to represent this commission.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission announces the 25th Annual Preservation Awards, to be conferred September 5, 2003 in Boston, and Archaeology Week October 11-19, 2003.

The MHC has also contacted Mr. Stange about creating a video on historic districts.

A request for information from Brad Donovan, of Donovan and Sweeney, Architects, regarding 821 Massachusetts Avenue and a possible move to another site on Mass. Ave. (*Note:* since the date of this meeting, this matter has been covered in detail by the Boston Sunday *Globe* (Northwest Edition) on March 16, and the Arlington *Advocate* March 20. According to these sources, Collins Development Inc. (Michael Collins, principal) would take possession of the former home of Charles and Adah Atwood (built 1912-1913) at 821 Massachusetts Avenue and move it to the Boston Federal Savings Bank site at 980 Mass. Ave. and Mt. Vernon Street. Collins would convert the house into three units of an anticipated nine-unit development, and leave 821 Mass. Ave. open for the neighboring Hodgson-Noyes automobile dealership to expand. Boston Fed. would then move back down the Avenue to 874-880 Mass. Ave., a location presently occupied by the closed Sunoco gas station—AMR)

Related Activities of other Town Boards (Historic Districts, Preservation Fund, Zoning, By-Law Review, Community Preservation Act Study Committee, others)

Representation is still need on the Preservation Fund Board; By-Law Review will meet later this week ("Special Places" legislation seems to be stalled in committee); advocates for the Community Preservation Act presented a workshop and strategy session which Ms. Robinson attended.

Projects proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:

1167 Mass. Ave. (Mirak) 9/00: Botterio-no information.

23 Maple Street (Town of Arlington) 11/00: Robinson-no information.

35 Bailey Road (Weil): Botterio-no information.

3-5 Brattle Street (Fertman) 4/02: Stange-no information.

1 Kensington Road (Rowe) 7/02: Botterio

5-11 Water Street (Rowe, tr'ee. of Waterpower Trust) 7/02: Botterio-no activity.

22 Brantwood Road (Blass) 1/03: Stange-no activity.

Continuing Projects

Whittemore-Robbins House (and outbuildings): Botterio-no information.

Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson-contract for fountains awarded.

Inventory Expansion and Review: on hold.

Education/Outreach, Website: Stange-work continues.

Old Schwamb Mill: Ruderman-no response to his letter of 24 February asking for an opportunity to photograph Mill interiors before the interior staircase is built (approved by MHC in January). Mr. Ruderman will follow up on this, and on the information from MHC that the Mill's trustees need to send past and current financial data to the MHC.

New Business**8:00 PM: Formal Hearing: 30-32 Addison Street (Mr. Mark Pitts, owner)**

The Commission voted 4-1 in favor (Commissioners Botterio, Ruderman, Meister, and Stange in the affirmative; Robinson in the negative; Becker abstaining) of the plan presented by Mr. Mark Pitts for changes to his property at 30-32 Addison Street (portions of the former Addison Gage mansion, removed from Pleasant Street) as drawn by Sara Hines, Architect, the details of which are incorporated by reference in this decision, with the following amendments to said plan:

a 36-inch balustrade surmounting the front porch of a style to match that surrounding the front porch, Pella aluminum-clad replacement windows to be installed to match the existing profiles, decorative brackets, as drawn upon the plan, to be added to the second story front and side windows, conversion of the two central windows on the second story of the front facade to doors, with single mullions, if the 36-inch balustrade (above) is sufficient to allow the use of the front porch's roof as a deck; if deck use is prohibited, then the second story front central windows shall be replaced with Pella aluminum-clad replacement windows to be installed to match the existing profiles and pattern of lights, side extension of the existing back porch will be modified, in consultation with the Commission's monitor of this project (Mr. Ruderman), to reduce its visibility from Addison Street, and shingle replacements as needed.

Mr. Ruderman will monitor the project for the commission.

8:45 PM: Discussion regarding 3-5 Brattle Street

Michael Goodwin, contractor for the project, presented several changes to his work plan, with the concurrence of the commission: fieldstone veneer upon the front and sides of the foundation from grade to sill; chimneys to be rebuilt for appearance only (after moisture problems inherent in the oil-to-gas conversion of the heating plant); and the front porch enclosure simplified to a triangular profile, as sketched and reviewed.

Ms. Meister reported that, according to town counsel, the imposition of a fee for hearings on petitioners would require a bylaw change; no further action at this time.

Next meeting confirmed for April 1, and this meeting closed at 10:30 PM.

For the Arlington Historical Commission,
A. Michael Ruderman, Commissioner